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CITY OF WASHINGTON.

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Mr. H. K. LUNDY, bookseller, Bridge street, Georgetown, will act as agent for the Sentinel, in receiving subscriptions and adver-

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

We publish to-day a communication on thi subject over the signature of "An American. to which we would most earnestly invite the attention of our readers. It is from the per of a pure patriot, whose commanding abilities high integrity, and long and intimate know ledge of public affairs, not only give him : right to speak freely and frankly to his fellow citizens, but make it the duty of all to listen t his words as the words of wisdom and experi-

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS. PACIFIC RAILROAD.

We have already sufficiently indicated on position upon the great general question, and the particular scheme which stands at the head of this article. What we purpose now to do, is to show that, upon principles of policy, as sound as those of constitutionality, the democratic doc trine is the true one-that the federal govern ment should not interfere with its means or by its power, to construct those great lines of im provement which are destined to interlace our entire country, and to join the oceans in an in dissoluble alliance, which will establish the ascendency of American commerce in our rivalry with the nations of the world. The States and the individual capitalists of the States, will be found entirely competent to the consummation of all these valuable facilities to free trade and intercourse among ourselves, as the basis of that large freedom of trade and inter course which sooner or later is destined to bind in one the powers of the earth.

If there be one thing upon which politica economists are agreed, and in which they have the support of the common sense of the world. it is that economy and efficiency are the characteristics of individual enterprise; while extravagance and comparative inefficiency are peculiar to government schemes. The reasons for this ted of human effort, the principle of self-inter-

Every government, from the very nature of its machinery and of the parasites who cling to it for support, is interested in increasing its revenue and its expenditures. The party have ing the disbursements to make-with its friends clamorous for reward for their services in elevating it to power-is not unwilling to swell the profits of jobbers in order to augment or retain its popularity. Nor is this all. It is notorious that with a full treasury no one seems interested in economizing the expenses of the government. Its buildings are more magnificentits grounds more extensive and beautifulits most ordinary conveniences, on a scale of profuse and uncontrolled expenditure which the individual capitalist.

This is the fault only of human nature. It is impossible that it should be otherwise. A full purse begets extravagant habits - while a stinted one exacts economy. The disbursement Such, in our opinion, are a few of the reason sideration of the labor and trouble inseparable improvement extravagant, inefficient, and corfrom the gradual accumulation of fortune; while rupting. We believe that experience justifies the expenditure of that which is another's, ex. and sustains our conclusions. Where they cept in cases unhappily exceptional, is too often have been attempted, they have furnished reckless, and unchecked by strict principles of gloomy histories of error, mismanagement, and the frowns of enemies frighten us from pursujustice and honor. In fact, it is so much more frequently of failure. Where internal improveeasy to be extravagant than economical-it involves so much less of care and netty annovance-that, where motives of self-interest do ertion, if not invariably, at least so much oftener not interpose a restraining influence, profuse. than upon the other principle, as to establish ness of expenditure will be the general rule, the reasoning we have adopted. while the reverse will be of rare occurrence.

gated trusts, we say it is peculiarly so where way to the Pacific will be made, we have never the trustee is a government. Who are the entertained a doubt. No press in the Union is owners of the money expended? The people. more earnestly solicitous for its construction How many? 25,000,000! How large is the than the Sentinel. It will be an achievemen interest of each in the whole expenditure? worthy of our age and of our country. But we The answers to these questions will show that, trust and believe, when it is accomplished, it upon the well-known proverb, that "what is will be a monument of that American entereverybody's business is really nobody's," the prise-a trophy of that American science, remote and scattered responsibility of a go- which, when directed by the free, progressive, vernment for its expenditures amounts really and expanding American spirit, have never almost to an irresponsibility, which induces failed to attain their noble ends, in elevating and encourages a reckless discharge of public the character, advancing the prosperity, and

of taxation under our federal system. It is ac- ergy, let the immense sum, already subscribed. tually true of the mass of the people, that un- let the improvements already consummated, der the method of taxation by duties, they are answer. We venture to say, that when capital is unconscious of the burthen of \$60,000,000, wanted for the road-when energy and genius withdrawn from their pockets for government are required to carry it forward, young Ameriuses. An increase of ten per cent. in State | ca with its rigor, and old America with its taxes will put its population in a tumult, while means, will complete this great and essential they bear without sensation the rise of federal link in the chain of the world's commerce and income from taxes, from 1846 to 1853, of over intercourse in a manner which shall be worthy 100 per cent.! Economy is a text for State of the American people, as it will be without politicians of great point, because its import- the aid of the American government! auce is felt from the regular salls of the toat gatherer, diminishing, by a direct withdrawal. the annual income of every man in the country. It fails to be as effective, when the man is told were thrown by the force of circumstances in to find the amount of his taxes in the increase the midst of the New York combatants, we es

'Add to all of these reasons, why extravagance We did so from the conviction that they were is made easy to our federal government, the right. They had always stood by the Confact that in a country so extensive as our Union. stitution. They had always repudiated herethe capital is the centre point for the gathering sies and rejected isms. Their adversaries of jobbers to feed upon the treasury, and that had, on the contrary, always shown themtheir schemes can be but little known to the selves to be regular soldiers of fortune, fightremote pioneer of the western wild-the secluded ing under the banner where the pay was highplanter, the quiet farmer, or the industrious est and most certain. Up to the time of the mechanic. And we may well account for the Baltimore convention they had been freesoilfact, that while Galphins are frequent and suc- ers. The same want of principle that made cessful claimants upon the federal government, them untrue to their brethren of the south, such cases are rare in the history of the State | made them betray their brethren of the north. governments, and almost unknown in that of One characteristic that marks them, and eviindividual capitalists.

To test the difference which we are now dis- is that they are so well organized and discicussing between the tendencies of governments plined that they never desert in detail, but and individuals to economy in carrying out their always abandon their allies in a body. As inschemes, let each man compare the anxious dividuals, they would be contemptible; as a deliberation which marks his own entrance compact band, they are formidable. We have,

spiri. We say they are the inevitable conseuences of human action under the two sets of notives to which we have referred. Indeed, it has become a common sentiment, that the fedral government is fair game for spoils-men. It is the result-a necessary evil consequence of any government, which an efficient admin istration may check and restrain-but canno wholly prevent.

Now, let this government undertake a granvstem of internal improvements-to be man ged by thousands of subordinate agents, whos duty may so often conflict with their interest to be undertaken by keen and unprincipled con tractors, whose wants will lead them to exact all, which a limited experience or the scraple of the official may permit him to grant-requir ing millions for their consummation, and involve ig an immense patronage to be distributed mone party adherents-arousing hundreds o hitherto quiet and unobtrusive people to make a grand assault upon the coffers of the treasury. And who can estimate the spirit of plunder and corruption, or the amount of both, which would spring from such a system? Once begun, would never end; for it would awaken desire which nothing could satisfy but the perpetua largess of the money of the people, to the idle. hungry, unprincipled beggars, who would cling to the treasury as the only source of an ade quate livelihood.

Such would be unquestionably the result of the entrance by the federal government upor the internal improvement system. Econom would cease to preside over the administration of our affairs-and in its stead, plunder and peculation would assert and maintain a per petual and unrestrained supremacy.

A similar course of reasoning would show that the efficiency of such a system upon the pasis of government support would be much ess than upon the basis of individual capital

None are so shrewd, so interested, so likely o be correct in a matter of investment, as the wner of the capital invested-why? If he right, he is the gainer-if wrong, it is his loss Self-interest enjoins prudence—imposes re straints upon the wayward course of fancy and gives energy to the judgment. No motive of political ambition-no object of party suc cess-no corrupt intrigue with greedy contract ors-can tempt the timid capitalist to venture ais thousands or millions upon a scheme that will not pay-nor to conduct it in a manner that will bring loss to himself and disaster to his project. As far as success may be predicaest will ensure it, by inducing prudence in the inception and energy in the prosecution of our

How different the state of things, when gov rnments undertake to carry on such a system How entangled its conduct becomes with mo tives of ambition-of party policy or even per onal aggrandizement in the official agents Who gains if it succeeds? Who loses if it fails? Not the agents of the government. Their fidelity is not secured by advantage from success, or damage from failure. The peoplethe scattered-unheeding people "pay the piper," where there is a loss-but they pay in the aggregate-each paving too little to make him feel it keenly. If there is success, each bear no comparison with the rigid economy of receives too little to give him a moment's delight. Hence, there is no man under the gov ernment system whose self interest would in-

> ments have been carried on upon the basis of individual enterprize, success has crowned ex-

The application of our views to the great Pa-While this is the fact in all cases of dele- cific line is easy. That the great iron highpromoting the glory of our country. That it But this tendency is increased by the nature is practicable to individual capital and en-

OUR FLAG STILL FLIES. When, as conductors of a public journal, w of his store account or of his blacksmith's bill. poused the cause of the national democrats. dences their astuteness, more than their virtue.

see the seeds of discord that had been sown there, scattered broadcast over the country. From our hearts we wished the elements of contention confined to the State in which they first appeared. But it was ordered otherwise. that we declared in favor of the national demono business to meddle with the matter. It was The case before us is one of them. beneath its notice. This was so clear to our mind that we could not, for a moment, doubt that the administration would take the same

But had the administration entered the field, and headed that party which we term freeesoilers, but which one of the cabinet has told us our duty, as the conductors of an independent journal, (not an organ,) to pursue the plain path which we had marked out, without fear or favor. If, at this last stage of the contest, when the crisis is at hand, the administration shall see fit to quit its high position of serene dignity and grovel in the dust pell mell with the New York combatants, we will still raise our voice in behalf of the national democrats. We would not recognise the administration as an administration in so unworthy a brawl. We

would shut our eyes against so unseemly an act. But whilst, in this matter, we would disapprove any such action on the part of the goernment, in other respects we would still be its fast friend and its warm supporter. We would adhere to it as the exponent of the principles and faith of the democratic party. There are specks on the sun, but we would not reject its light and its heat for that cause. No more would we array ourselves in antagonism to the President and his cabinet because we disapprove one single act of theirs. No man can say with truth that he approves of every act of any public man. He is a false friend who sees another act indiscreetly without having the manliness and independence to advise him against it. We wish to be understood and will therefore repeat that even if the administration should connect itself with these squabbles, whilst we will not hesitate to condemn such interference. we will still uphold its principles and policy.

We are sorry, very sorry, to find that a few of the presses of the country, particularly some in the south, which sided with us when the New York fend became nationalized, have hearkened to bad counsels or suffered themselves to be misled by their fears. They wrote strongly on the subject. They solemnly committed themselves before the world to the fortunes of the national democrats. Not content with writing themselves, they copied from our own paper the strongest articles that we wrote They endorsed those articles and commended them to their readers. But suddenly, in the twinkling of an eye, they have faced about. They have changed their uniform and their colors. From being friends, they have become enemies to the national democrats. What is the meaning of these magical and mysterious spire desire for success, or disappointment in tergiversations? The whole country feels the ame surprise, and gives utterance to exclamations of wonder. Nor is it alone a feeling of of one's own is always restrained by a con- which make government schemes of internal surprise that we have, it is also one of mortification and of shame.

part, we stand now where we stood at first. to what I believe the President's general posi-Neither the smiles of friends shall entice, nor ing the path that our judgment and conscience He will carry out the State rights strict con approve. Come weal, come wo-desert who struction doctrines of the Jeffersonian school. may, we will stick by our flag to the last. Let unmanly fears, or sordid hopes, or ambitious aspirations tempt other presses from the paths enlarge our navy according to the spirit of the of independence and rectitude-for our part we | age and the growing wants of our country. He have made our choice, and we will abide it to

But the country asks, and asks with emphasis, where be the guns that so lately poured rable and invincible reply to the Austrian mintheir volleys into the ranks of the mercenary freesoilers? Where be the stalwart soldiers that manned those guns? One after another has abandoned his post and appeared in the that important point there can be, to use his ranks of the enemy. Were they hireling sol- own language, "no north," no "south." diers, or did they desert from fear? Can they hold un their heads and face honest men after this their more than Arnold treason? That with its spirit, so far as it goes, and my object the masses of the people, north and south-particularly of the south-and the majority of the press are with us we believe, as firmly as we do that the freesoilers are against, and the national democrats in favor of upholding the Constitution of the country. We would not speak harshly-but we feel most keenly the shame of these sudden and unexampled apostacies, few and inconsiderable though they be.

From an Edinburgh Paper. BAPTISM EXTRAORDINARY .- An interesting, lovel, and romantic christening took place a few days ago on the 340th anniversary of the f Flodden, on the battle-ground where King James IV, fell, September 10, 1513, surrounded by his nobles and the chivalry of Scot-land. Captain G. F. Lindsay, of the United States marine corps, who recently left the United States as bearer of despatches to the American legations at London and Paris, being Scotland on a visit to his wife's relatives and his own kinsman, conceived the notion of having his infant son christened on that reputedly dorious though fatal field to Scotland this purpose a party was made up, and the Rev. Patrick Brewster, of the Abbey church, Paisley, a friend of his wife's family, the Fras-Newfield House, near Johnstone, was invited to officiate at the ceremony, and who, kindly consenting to do so, the party proceeded by railway from Edinburgh to Berwick, where hey took carriages and drove fifteen miles to battle field, and on the margin of Camphill Burn, a beautiful little stream running through the field into the river Till, the infant boy was paptized from the water of that limpid stream, nder the name of Walter Edzell, in memory of the gallant young Walter of Edzell, who fought under the king's banner, and was one of he faithful band who, after the day was utterly lost, formed themselves into a ring, and fought to the last in defence of their king, till he fell in the midst of them. Captain Lindsay had many ancestral kinsmen killed in that bloody battle. Among them was Earl John Lindsay, of Crawford, the chief of the clan, and Walter npon and conduct of them, with the admitted off-hand and almost careless determination of the officers of the government in respect to them.

We do not say these things in a fault-finding to the controversy to become national in its character. We did not wish to

The Question of Cuba

To the Editors of the Sentinel: I would respectfully advise you to republish the whole of the following article from the Press after press embarked in the contest. Washington Union, of Thursday last. I have Efforts, and very ill-advised efforts, were made no doubt it speaks "as if from authority," and to drag the high and honored functionaries of what is more, it speaks the language of truth. this great government into these unfortunate The facts on which it rests are as strong as the brawls. It was at this juncture that we found policy which it recommends is bold and wise. ourselves forced into the difficulty. We delib- Shakspeare says that "the better part of valor erated calmly; we canvassed the merits of the is discretion;" but the reverse of the maxim is two factions with caution, and the result was also true in many cases, that "the better part of and speak a warning voice to Mr. Crampton discretion is valor." There are crisis when we crats. It was not our purpose to array our- must meet the question boldly-face the danger selves against the administration. Nor did we when it first appears, and resist it with all the do so. We thought that the administration had energy which God has placed in our hands.

Let me say at once that, as an American statesman, I would rather not step my foot from off this continent, at least for some time, if we could honorably avoid it. I would rather fill up the territory which we already own, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and gradually acclimate the foreigners who take refuge under the wings of he does not so regard, we would have felt it our eagle, to our free and glorious institutions. than enlarge in any considerable degree the bounds of our territory. I would rather let the islands alone. I would rather let Cuba remain in the hands of Spain, if she will use it wisely and well. But I will never consent for Great Britian to control the destiny of Cuba, so as to fill it with hordes of native apprenticed Africans, and plant by degrees another black republic, like degraded Hayti, on the borders of the southern States. If Great Britain is determined to strike at us by this insidious policy. or if she is so insane as not to profit by her own mischievous policy in ruining the island of Jamaica by her hasty and fanatical scheme of emancipation*-or if she will reverse the proper destiny of the population of Africa by bringing some of her unfortunate people from their own continent to blur the face of Cuba, instead of sending those back to her, who can be reached by a wise system of colonization, to colonize and christianize her shores, we must at once will not permit her to tamper with Cuba. We must tell her that her mischievous policy compels us to change our course, and that we must ve Cuba at the hazard of a war with her. It is said that she is already operating upo

he court of Madrid, and upon the greed

and opulent planters of Cuba, to introduce the system of apprenticeship for ten years to come, to be followed by a total emancipation in fifty years. I have no doubt the article in the Inion is founded upon this species of informa tion-and, in fact, already we hear that measures have been taken by one of the richest planters of Cuba, to introduce five thousand apprenticed slaves from Africa, with the prospect of making a million of dollars by the operation. The sam appeal is to be made to the avarice of all the spanish cultivators—at the hazard of barbarizing this beautiful island, and disturbing the tranquility of the southern States. Such a thing must not be. I have no doubt that the Predent will do his duty in this emergency. have no doubt that instructions of the decided character have gone out to London and to Madrid-and that when it is time to act. Franklin Pierce will be found at his post, the faithful sentinel on the watch towerthe redoubtable champion of the rights of the nation. I differ with him on the New York question, whilst I admit the honesty and purity of his motive. All my sympathies are with the "hards," whose past conduct deserves ou confidence on every new phase of the slavery question; and I sincerely regret that the adminis tration has permitted itself to mingle at all with the State concerns of New York. I thoroughly disapprove of Mr. Guthrie's letter, and of the proscription of Bronson and O'Conor. Such movements cannot abate the fury of factions nor inure to the benefit of the administration As to my view of the Constitution, the Executive of the federal government has no essential tion and of shame.

However, let others do as they will, for our I should be false to my own feelings, and false tion, if I did not express my warm confidence in the principles of the man. He will be true on the great measures of the democratic party. He will lend no countenance to the unconstitutional scheme of the Pacific railroad by the agency of the federal government. He will introduce a wise economy in the expenditures of the government. He will continue to protect our rights abroad, with the same vigor with which the Secretary of State, in his admiister, has vindicated the bold and chivalrous conduct of Ingraham. Above all, he will stand up, on the subject of Cuba, for the tranquility of the south and the honor of the Union. Or

These hasty remarks are drawn from me b the editorial article which has appeared in this morning's National Intelligencer. I am pleased is to draw it out one step further. But let the

Intelligencer speak for itself: "The movement disclosed by the Union is certainly of deep interest to this country, especially to our southern States, and will arrest universal attention. It is calculated to startle, but it should affection. It is calculated to startle, but it should hardly surprise us. When we consider at what immense pecuniary cost England abolished slavery in her West India possessions; that anti-slavery is a great and ever active principle in her governia a great and ever active principle in her governiance. mental policy, whenever and wherever there is opportunity for its exercise; when we add to this that slavery has been long extinguished in the large French Island of Hayti, it would have seemed an inevitable event, in the law of progress, tha sooner or later slavery would share the same fate in the great contiguous Islanc of Cuba, containing a population of eight hundred thousand colored, bond and free. We may regard the knell of slavery in the Antilles to have been sounded the day that the Parliament of England rashly, unwisely, and unfortunately enacted its extinction in her India colonies. Circumstances might retard, but nothing could prevent its final consummation through some instrumentality or other. If, as is now stated, the initial steps are taken against slavery in Cuba, backed by the power and influence of England, the event has approached sooner than we expected, and has been accelerated by the buccaneering expeditions fitted out on our shores for the conquest of the island, and the plots still avowedly meditated, and openly encouraged by high public functionaries, for wresting the island from the dominion of Sania. If however, the from the dominion of Spain, If, however, the statements of the *Union* are unsupported by official information, and are mere newspaper specu-lations and deductions, we should consider it an artful plan to alarm and stimulate the flibustiering elements which now swarm in our seaports, con-cocting plans for another invasion. But, taking cocting plans for another invasions the facts to be authentic and announced in good faith, they present a very grave conjuncture for the decision of our government. What course it decision of our government. What course it should take it would be presumptuous in us to fully before us. Our province and present pur pose are simply to lay the affair before our readers it is given to the public through the officia paper.

I confess my object is to call the Intelligen cer out on this "grave revelation"—this "start-ling theme." Why talk of "presumption," when so important an event hangs like a thunder-cloud over the country? What is a free press

worth, if at such a crisis it does not come boldly out, and speak from the house tops the senti-ments which suit the occasion? Why has the Intelligencer been accumulating for years the influence which it has acquired in the public mind, if it does not turn that influence to ac-count? That distinguished journal has for nany years been charged with sacrificing the nterests of its own country to foreign influences. Whether this insinuation be true or false, it is not necessary to discuss at the present time. false, the influence of gencer with foreign ministers is greater than any other journal can pretend to exert. now appeal to its editors, therefore, to come ou before it be too late. Let it tell that gentle manly minister of the British government, that the United States will never acquiesce in such a movement—that we are determined to defeat it

In a word, let the Intelligencer speak out i the trumpet tones which become a free and patriotic press in a crisis like the present. Its editors may, essentially, assist in arresting the treason which threatens our peace. A timely word of frank and and generous warning may

at the hazard of every extremity-and that, un-

less he desires to plunge his nation in a war with the United States, he should advise his

court of the gathering tempest, which its inter-

stop the mischief before it goes too far. Will the National Intelligencer then speak that word? Will it dare come forward and say what will be its course, if this "grave conjecture" should come up "for the decision of our government?" Will it stand by its own counry, or will it not? Let it speak out at onceand who knows but that the conductor of its ress may draw off the lightning which threatens burst upon us. AN AMERICAN.

From the Union of Thursday

The Cuban Question. "The rumors which have prevailed for some time as to the interference of Great Britain in the slavery question in Cuba are revived, with cirhas been about twelve years, if our memory is not at fault, since Sir Robert Peel justified the proposition to indemnify the owners of slaves in Jamaica for their emancipation, upon the ground that the measure of abolishing slavery in that island would exert an influence upon this conti-nent, and that twenty millions of pounds sterling would be well spent for such an object. That policy, as we believe, has been steadily pursued by the British government, and is now actually consummated, or is about being consummated, in the scheme of introducing apprentices from Afric into Cuba, with the consent of Spain and unde the protection of British ships-of-war to be worked for ten years as slaves; with the further agreement that slavery shall cease to exist in the island ment that slavery shall cease to exist in the island at the end of fifty years. We have reason to believe, from our private advices from Håvana, that wealthy Spaniards in Cuba are now negotiating for the sale of African apprentices at fixed prices, in anticipation of importations, for which arrangements have been made with the government of Madrid, and sanctioned and guarantied by the British government. In that spirit of open-spoken freedom which ought to be the ruling characteristic of an American press, we deem it our duty to tic of an American press, we deem it our duty to call the attention of the American people to the information derived from these significant facts. It becomes us to survey them with calmness and determination. We would not indulge in pas-sionate denunciation, but we would speak as we would have our government to act, with prompt-

ness, firmness, and energy.

"As a question of humanity, the practical execution of the scheme of Africanizing Cuba is revolting to human nature. It has but to be looked at in this point of view to see in it a revival, in its most hideous form, of the slave trade. Let it be remembered that the condition of the apprentice or the ten years of his servitude is to be stripped for the ten years of his servitude is to be stripped of those features in the slavery of the United States which make humanity of treatment an object of interest as well as of duty to the owner. The apprentice is to be sold into bondage for ten years, and during that period is to be subjected to such system of labor and treatment as will prove most profitable to the exactions of unfeeling avarice. Ten years of such bondage will be infinitely worse than a lifetime of three-score years and ten of the slavery which exists in our southern States. Ten years will become the limit of physi-States. Ten years will become the limit of physi-cal capability in the apprentice; and if he survives this limit with life, it will only be his lot to take his freedom with no capacity to enjoy it. On the mere question of humanity, the sentiments of the civilized world ought to rise up and denounce it as too shockingly barbarous to be tolerated.

"But it is our duty to look at the movement in its intended and its probable bearing upon our naional interests, and in this point of view sents a question of momentous magnitude. Form-ing our opinion upon well-authenticated historical nets, we are justified in attributing to Great Br tain now the same motive which Sir Robert Peel avowed in regard to the abolition of slavery in Jamaica—the motive of exerting an influence on the institutions of the United States. If that motive was sufficiently strong in regard to Jamaica to induce so distinguished a British statesman to advocate an expenditure of twenty millions of pounds, how much more potent may we not sup-pose the inducement to be as to the Africanipounds, how much more potent may we not sup-pose the inducement to be as to the Africani-zation of Cuba! But the question is not con-fined in its range to the probable influence which a nation of free negroes may exert upon the institutions of the southern States, and conse-quently upon the integrity of our federal Union. Viewed in this light, the efficient action of our overnment is invoked by the most obvious prin-iples of self-preservation.

Bearing in mind that this movement originates with, or at least owes all of its hopes of success to, the counsels and interference of Great Britain, we cannot avoid the conclusion that it is to be excuted under the guaranties of the British navy, so tribust be made effectual by a continued British protectorate over the Island of Cuba. The effect is the transfer of Cuba from Spain to Great Britain making it substantially a British instead of a Span ish province or colony. In this aspect of the case the decided action of our government is demand ed by that universally approved American senti-ment which is prepared to resist, at all hazards any attempt of any European power to interfere with the affairs of this continent. Upon all these grounds the intelligence from Cuba indicates the approach of a crisis which must settle the destiny the island. We have every assurance in the st course of the President and his cabinet that of the island. We have every assurance in the past course of the President and his cabinet that they will discharge their duty with firmness and courage; whilst we have equal guaranty that their action will be the result of the most deliberate and patriotic convictions. In view of a crisis so mo mentous, the heart of the patriot President must swell with emotions of national pride to know that with the exception of a few contemptible fanatics he will be backed and sustained to the last extre mity in his determination to follow the dictates o humanity, to guard the constitutional rights of all the States, to preserve the integrity of the federal the States, to preserve the integrity of the federal Union, and to resist the aggressions of British monarchy, by the united voice and energies of a people who are jealous of their honor, who are informed of their rights, and who are ready to stake life, liberty, and property on the preservation of both. By all the considerations of interest, of honor, of blood, we have appealed to Great Britain to desist from her mad interference in our domestic concerns; but our appeal has been in vain tain to desist from her mad interference in our do mestic concerns; but our appeal has been in vain, and we shall be compelled to throw ourselves back upon our rights, and our government, guided by a helmsman who knows neither fear weight must stand by these rights, and leave the conse quences to an overruling Providence.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND HIS TROOPS. present in St. Petersburgh at a review of 160. A gentleman of New York, who was recently 000 Russian troops by the emperor, the Mirror says, describes him as a perfect specimen of the physical man; in height six feet three, and admirably proportioned, with snow white hair and ruddy countenance. He was plainly dressed in a dark green frock, with a black chapeau without feathers; and, mounted on a coal black charger of immense size, the Czar looked

As the troops were passing before him he suddenly raised his hand as a signal for a halt, when he dismounted, walked up to a private in the ranks, and asked him to unbutton his coat. On finding that the soldier was without a shirt the emperor promptly ordered the officers of the company to Siberia, and the officers of the regiment were instantly degraded to the rank of privates.

THE LATE REV. SIDNEY SMITH Observed that a railway whistle seems to him to be something like the scream an attorney would give when first the devil caught hold of him.

To the Editors of the Sentinel: I have read in your paper two articles in relation to "old fogies," in which you have undertaken to demonstrate the necessity of sub stituting at the head of our army and navy bureaux younger officers for the present in-cumbents, and it strikes me as manifestly right and proper that this change should be made. It is called for by public opinion, and demanded by the true interests of the army and navy. In the latter branch of the public service, I am quite sure of its urgent necessity, unless the Secretary of the Navy should think, as his predecessors seem to have done, that these offices belong to their present incumbents, either from a right derived from possession, or

If these old tars cannot be got to take their trick at the helm, put them on a retired list or on furlough, where they will be out of harm's way and out of the way of active and energetic officers. It is preposterous to say that the superanuated tars are as competent to administer the important duties devolving upon them as the head of a bureau as a majority of their uniors now in the service.

These time-honored fogies have been for long series of years basking in the gaveties of the metropolis, dancing attendance upon the several administrations through which they have passed, until they have become rusty in nautical affairs, whilst a host of their juniors n the service are traversing the different seas, observing the daily improvements that are being made in other countries, in their respec-tive navies, and particularly in that branch of them relating to steamers, that it appears too palpably manifest that we are a long way behind any other nation that pretends to have a navy. Look, for instance, at the state of our naval steamers at this time. I do not think we have more than one effective, available first class steamer in our navy, (the Mississippi,) whilst we have expended money sufficient have had, at a low estimate, at least ten. Look for instance, at the Union, the Alleghany, th Saranac, and the Princeton. What service have they performed? And what amount of

money have they cost? I have no doubt it will now cost as much make them available, (if it is possible to do it at all,) as it would to build new ships of equal tonnage. The enquiry then properly comes up, the fault? Many, no doubt, will answer that the fault is with the Secretary of the Navythen what becomes of your old tars, your old heroes, at the heads of your avy bureaux? They are presumed to be his advisers; at all events the head of the construction bureau, whose especial duty it is to attend to and orde the construction, equipment, and repair of th navy. These worthy tars who have held or with such pertinacity, for so many years, con-trary to law, resisting every effort to fill the bureau in obedience to the law creating it, with a naval constructor; these, I contend, are the ones responsible for all these failings; this enormous amount of money which has been squandered upon these steamers, and in many

other kindred projects and fooleries.

It is high time, and I most earnestly hope the present able and efficient secretary will se the necessity of looking into this matter and reforming it, by placing younger and more ef-ficient officers in their places. There is no good reason why these gentlemen should have a life estate in these comfortable places. We have other officers equally, if not more meri-torious, than they, and whose services will compare with theirs without disparagement in

I now propose to look a little into the duty performed by this aristocracy of the navy. At the head of one of the bureaus stands a gentle man who has been in service fifty-two years, during which time he has been unemployed, or, in other words, upon leave pay, only two years Since he was promoted to a captain, he has been at sea nine years and two months-total sea service, twenty-one years and two months ore duty, thirty years and four months! His has been quite a downy time. At the head of another bureau, stands a gentleman who has been forty-six years in the navy. He has been the conclusion of an article upon the convention the conclusion of an article upon the interpretative thanks to the initiative on shore duty twenty-two years! Sea duty, seventeen years and seven months; sea service, taken by a mere lieutenant of the American navy, as a captain, four years and ten months. An

easy time this. I now come to the third member of this aristocracy, who, for a long time, has been chief of another bureau. This gentleman has been in our navy forty-three years and ten months; unemployed, twelve years and four months; shore duty, seventeen years and two months; sea serfourteen years and seven months; sea ser vice since promoted to captain, two years and three months. It would really appear that these worthies seem to think that, from their gallantry and services to the country, whiel raised them to the dignified rank of captains they are to retire from ship board and alternate from the command of a navy-yard to that of chief of a bureau.

That there are many, very many abuses ex isting in the navy, which have no doubt arisen from the want of judgment and bad counsel lors of the two Secretaries preceding the present one, the public mind is directed with much anxiety to the present able and accomplished Secretary of the Navy, under a firm and full conviction that he will interpose his authority, and at once reform these abuses by bringing around him new counsellors, composed of ju-nior officers, in the vigor of manhood, and thereby have a healthy state of affairs, and reinstate the navy to the rank she formerly held among other nations, and which the gallantry and nautical skill of her officers and men s justly entitle her to hold at the present mo

The subject to which these remarks are di rected, being one of such interest to the country, and involving so large an amount of inquiry and time, that I will, at a future time, (not far distant,) again refer to it, mentioning the merits and services of the incumbents o the bureau, specifying how they have been em ployed, with many topics of public interest

which will be brought to notice. Washington, Oct. 18, 1853.

"OLD BULL'S CONCERT!" said Mrs. Parting ton, glancing up from her kitting as she rea the announcement of the grand concert on Sat urday evening, and she smiled as the ridiculous fancy ran through her mind, like a grass hopper in a stubble field, of an old bull giving concert. "And yet it is'nt so very wond continued she, "for I remember a cat and ca nary that lived together, and one or tother of of 'em used to sing beautifully. But I wonder what he plays on." Ike suggested that he played on one of his own horns, which seemed to be reasonable. "I am glad he is going to give his concert, because when I went down to hear a great artizan play on a violence, as they called out, though I found out afterwards it was nothing but a fiddle, they were going to charge a dollar till I told 'em I was one of the connec tions of the Post, and they let me in. I can't think what music an old bull can make, I'm sure. It must be very uproarious, I should think, and better fitted for overturns than for pastureal music." She closed her critique with a pinch of snuff, and got on to her wires again like a telegraphic dispatch, and went ahead, while Ike amused himself by scratching his name with a board nail in magnificent Roman capitals upon the newly painted pannel of the

MA TOUGH FELLOW .- The Cincinnati Ga zette states that a man fell to the ground from a five-story building in that city, and, to the asent of everybody, got up and walked

We received yesterday from Europe a quarto olume, containing an account of the proceed-ags of the Maritime Convention recently held it Brussels, at the instance of Lieut. Maury, of the United States navy, for the purpose of termining, with the concurrence of all maritime nations, the adoption of a uniform system of nautical observations for the advancement of scientific navigation. This new work is writ-ten in French and English. It contains the minutes of the convention, with a summary re port drawn up by Lieut. Maury, and a form or model for the journal which seamen are desired to keep in prosecution of the objects of the convention. As our Paris correspondent men either from a right derived from possession, or from their old age and imbecility; and that being unfit for sea service, but covetous of full pay, they are to be kept in the bureaux as sinecures to squander the public treasure.

If these old tars cannot be got to take their life the season of the line of the Belgian Minister of the Interior, at Brussels, and was composed of delegates representing the following countries: United States, England, France, Russia, Belgian of the line of the line of the Belgian Minister of the Interior, at Brussels, and was composed of delegates representing the following countries: United States, England, France, Russia, Belgian of the line of the Belgian Minister of the line Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, and Portugal. M. Quetelet, the learned director of the observatory of Brussels, was chosen president of the convention. Lieut. Maury opened the labors of the body with an expose of the manufacture of the manufacture. the wants of nautical science in its present state, of his own past labors for the supply of those wants, and of his plans for effecting com-pletely the reforms needed by the co-operation of the marines, merchant and military, of all civilized nations. Having heard the expose o Lieut. Maury, the convention first bestowed its attention upon the instruments in general use among seamen for making their observations and it was resolved that efforts should be made to ameliorate several of them. The marine barometer especially was recognised to be very deficient. So faulty is it, said Lieut. M., that meteorologists, in their investigations into the laws of atmospheric pressure, find themselves almost constantly unable to give any value to the barometrical observations made at sea. The conference then prepared a model journal for the use of sea captains in recording their observations.

The first column of this journal, says the re-

port, indicates the number and kind of observations which the United States government requires of sea captains in order to entitle them to gratuitous participation in the advantages inticipated as the result of the system. They are required to record once a day the positio of the ship, the direction and force of currents, the height of the barometer, and the temperature of the air and water. The force and direction of the winds must be given three times a day and the variations of the needle must be noted whenever observed. The succeeding columns of the journal are intended particularly for the use of vessels of war, and are to contain complementary observations, the making and re cord of which require more time, care, and skill. When the observations shall have been made and recorded in the manner prescribed they are to be forwarded to a bureau organized ad hoc, where they will be examined, and the information they contain made to concur for the discovery of the general facts and laws the knowledge of which is necessary for the advancement of the science of navigation. The King of Sweden caused to be announced to the convention that he had already given orders that the journals kept by Swedish naval officers should be transmitted to the Royal Academy of Sciences at Stockholm. The governments of Holland, of Belgium, and of Portugal, have taken similar measures, and the Admiralty of Great Britain will order meteorological observations to be made in the royal navy. Mr. M. announced that the merchant marines of other nations would be placed in the prosecution of this work upon the same footing with that of the United States; that is to say, every sea captain who would keep during his journal upon the plan prescribed by the convention, and forward a copy of the same to the American government, should be entitled gratis to a copy of the Navigator's Guide, and of charts of winds and currents, which it was in-tended to publish. Having settled these various matters, the convention adjourned sine die on the 8th of September, after voting thanks to the Belgium government for the liberal spirit with which it had concurred in the views of the delegates, and furnished all needfull facilities

the principal maritime nations of the earth have become engaged in one of the most vast and use-ful scientific enterprises that have ever been con-ceived. Thus have those nations concurred in common efforts to explore for the common good air and ocean, which belong in common to the human race. The results of this grand enterprise human race. The results of this grand enterprise will without doubt reach beyond the narrow limits which Lieut. Maury at first proposed to himself. But, whatever those results may be, has not the convention of Brussels already presented, as Lieut.
M. eloquently remarked, a fine spectacle to the
world? It has united in the noble end of benefiting humanity a convention of naval officers whom heretofore we have never seen assembled except to deliberate at the cannon's mouth upon the most efficient means for the wholesale destruction of the human species. Is not this a moral result upon which we may well congratulate ourselves, while awaiting those of a scientific nature which we reasonably expect? Let us also congratulate ourselves upon the fact that Belgium has been chosen for the preparation of this work of civilization and of peace. Long has our country been the battle field upon which the governments of Europe have debated their quarrels. It is now the pacific rendezvous of men addressing themselves to the organization, by the co-operation of all civilized nations, of enterprises for the good of mankind. Our country's neutrality, established by policy, is daily becoming consecrated by science. Here is one power more ranging itself on our side, and

"My dear, Mr. Smith has just closed his store, and left one of his mahogany rockers out doors. To prevent its being stolen, hadn't you better send John to bring it over here till

"Certainly, my love. John, go to Smith's and get that rocker which is standing on the stoop, and bring it over to the store for safe

John goes-John stavs-John continues to stay. Twelve o'clock comes-so does one, and two o'clock. About half-past two, an immense double knock is heard at the door. Up go windows-out go nightcaps-and off starts

inquiry: "What's the row?" "We belong to the night police, and we have got a man in custody for stealing rockers. He says he lives with you, and wants you to come to 'the station,' where we have had him incarcerated since ten o'clock."

Mr. Jones leaves his wife and pillow-puts on his cassimeres—and puts off for the watch-house, where he finds "John," sure enough, arrested for "purloining furniture." nation takes place-John obtains his hat and liberty-and resolves to never do another good natured action in his life. Mr. Jones returns to the bosom of his family, where he finds Mrs. J. going off into her fourth hysteric, because she feared that her husband would never came back alive. Jones flies for a physician. At the end of the week a bill of eight dollars is presented for "medicine and attendance." Jones swears at Smith, and imitates "John," and says he will never do another good-natured action in his life.

Moral .- Don't shut your store till "your things" are all in; that is, if you don't want to give some good-natured neighbor twenty dol-lars worth of trouble for a five dollar rocking-

Returns from forty counties in Pennsylvauia give a majority of sixteen thousand for the de-mocratic State ticket. The remaining counties will probably increase the majority to twenty-five

78 The Greenfield, Massachusetts, Manufac turing Company, at the Factory Village, has